

EASTER OCTAVE

Easter is more than one day -- it's an entire season of the Church year that begins with the Easter Octave. The gospel readings during the Octave include some of the most beautiful passages of scripture from the time after Jesus' resurrection and his first encounters with his friends and disciples. These readings remind us of the importance of Jesus' resurrection and the power of his ministry here on earth. Jesus appeared to his friends & disciples that they might continue to share the Good News in word and deed with everyone they would meet.

	<i>scripture</i>	<i>description</i>	<i>spiritual jist</i>
EASTER SUNDAY	John 20:1-9 Luke 24:1-12	Jesus' tomb is empty.	Death is not the end of the story.
MONDAY	Matthew 28: 8-15	Jesus meets up with the Marys after he is risen.	Our God is a God of surprises!
TUESDAY	John 20: 11-18	Mary Magdalene does not recognize Jesus.	Walk by faith & not by sight alone.
WEDNESDAY	Luke 24: 13-35	Jesus meets 2 disciples on the road to Emmaus.	Always look for Christ in others.
THURSDAY	Luke 24: 35-48	Jesus shows his wounds to his disciples.	Seeking Christ in the midst of the mess.
FRIDAY	John 21: 1-14	Jesus helps his disciples fish and feeds them.	Build your hopes on Christ.
SATURDAY	Mark 16: 9-15	Jesus tells his disciples to procalim the Gospel.	True strength is sharing joy, love, hope & kindness.
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY	John 20: 19-31	Thomas puts his hand into Jesus' wounds so that he may believe Christ is truly risen.	Doubt is not an enemy of faith, but disengagement is.

Busted Halo.com

From Caitlin Kennell Kim at Busted Halo

Catholics and many Protestant faiths celebrate the **Resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday**. But the celebration of Easter through the liturgical season of Eastertide is 50 days long, leading up to Pentecost. It is the longest season in the Church calendar. Also during Eastertide, the Angelus is replaced with the Regina Caeli, continuing the celebration of the Resurrection.

But why do Catholics celebrate Easter for 50 days?

The purpose of Eastertide is to bask in the glory of the Resurrection. This time is to reflect on the new life God has given us through the sacrifice of Christ. Everything changed and a single day is not enough time to celebrate the magnitude of Easter. The Catholic faithful spent 40 days praying, fasting, and giving alms in preparation for the Passion, death, and Resurrection of Christ. In turn, we will spend the next 50 days celebrating Christ's victory over death.

Another reason the Church celebrates Eastertide is to remember the 40 days Christ spent with His Apostles before his Ascension. Just as the disciples rejoiced in the Resurrection for 40 days, learning more from Jesus, the Catholic faithful rejoice during the Easter season.

"It is characterized, above all, by the joy of glorified life and the victory over death expressed most fully in the great resounding cry of the Christian: Alleluia! All faith flows from faith in the Resurrection," according to **the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops**.

Throughout Eastertide, the first readings for every Mass come from the Acts of the Apostles. It will culminate with the reading of Acts 2:1-31 when the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles at Pentecost.

Excerpt from <https://www.nashvillecatholic.org/news/posts/what-is-eastertide>

Divine Mercy Sunday

is celebrated on the Sunday after Easter, The last day of the Easter Octave.

In 2025, the feast is on **April 27th**.



The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy



1. Begin with the Sign of the Cross, one Our Father, one Hail Mary and The Apostles Creed.

2. Then on the Our Father Beads say the following:

Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

3. On the 10 Hail Mary Beads say the following:

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

(Repeat step 2 and 3 for all five decades).

4. Conclude with *(three times)*:

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

Our Lord also said, "The first Sunday after Easter is the Feast of Mercy, but there must also be acts of mercy....I demand from you, deeds of mercy, which are to arise out of love for Me." (Diary, 742) It is clear that Our Lord wants mercy to be shown to others and this can be done by telling everyone about the special promise of the total forgiveness of sins and punishment that He has graciously given to us.

You are encouraged to practice works of charity or mercy every day.

At three o'clock, implore My mercy, especially for sinners; and, if only for a brief moment, immerse yourself in My Passion, particularly in My abandonment at the moment of agony. This is the hour of great mercy ... In this hour I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion.

(Diary of Saint Faustina, 1320)

While 3:00 p.m. is the best time to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet, the faithful can say this prayer any time of day and on any day of the week.

For more prayers and information, visit: <https://centrefordivinemercy.org/chaplet-of-divine-mercy>